

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PREPARING A POLY(ARYLENE ETHER)

Abstract of the Disclosure

A method of precipitating a poly(arylene ether) includes preparing a poly(arylene ether) solution comprising a poly(arylene ether) and a solvent, combining the poly(arylene ether) solution with an antisolvent to form a poly(arylene ether) dispersion comprising a poly(arylene ether) solid, separating the poly(arylene ether) solid from the poly(arylene ether) dispersion to form an isolated poly(arylene ether) solid, determining a particle size distribution of the poly(arylene ether) solid prior to separating the poly(arylene ether) solid from the poly(arylene ether) dispersion, and adjusting a precipitation parameter in response to the particle size distribution. Although the measured particle size distribution is very different from the particle size distribution of the solid poly(arylene ether) ultimately isolated, it is useful for controlling the process. The method may be automated to rapidly adjust precipitation conditions in response to the particle size distribution measurements. An apparatus for carrying out the method is also described.